



My name is Priscilla Sarpong, RN, Director of Nursing at Southport Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. I have been in the Nursing home environment for 6 years. I enjoy providing care to the elderly and helpless population but a mandate like the New Unfunded Connecticut 4.1 legislature will take away the safe haven and skilled nursing support that is available to our Geriatric population.

My building service a lot of residents with psychiatric challenges, the homeless population that has a need for skilled nursing. We are faced with various challenges caring for this population and staffing is one of them challenge. Many nursing staff struggle with providing care to this population and recent staff shortage has further decreased our staffing pool. We have been unsuccessful despite using unsustainable creative ways to attract staff to our building. My building is currently in need of 3 Charge nurses and 3 nurses' aide. This need has been on going for almost 6 months.

This new staffing mandate will not benefit our residents. The unfunded Mandate will lead to many nursing home closing down. Our residents will be the ones to suffer. They will find themselves back on the streets with no support.

I am appealing to the Human Services and Aging Committees to consider the Residents that do not have any support in the community. The many residents who will suffer because the mandate will put nursing homes and their operators out of compliance.

Even when staff is available to hire, an unfunded mandate will cause many nursing homes to close down. We are doing our best to provide the needs of the patients within the resources available to us.

Carefully review this Unfunded mandate Connecticut 4.1 Per Day Direct Care Minimum Staffing Legislative Proposal with our helpless Geriatric population and psychiatric population in mind.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Sarpong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Priscilla Sarpong, RN

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